Marvine Colliery, Fan House No. 2
W side of Boulevard Ave.,
between E Parker St. and I Rt. 380
Scranton
Lackawanna County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-183-G

HAER
PA
35-SCRAN,
6G-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Marvine Colliery, Fan House No. 2

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Location: Fronting on Boulevard Avenue in an east position on the Marvine Colliery site east of the Lackawanna River, between East Parker Street at the south and Interstate Route 380 at the north
Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

UTM: 41, 36' 43" latitude; 75, 38' 20" longitude
Quad: Scranton

Dates of Construction: Circa 1918

Present Owner: Louis and Dominick DeNaples
F & L Realty

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: None

Significance: Marvine Colliery is important to local history for its relationship to the development of the Anthracite Mining Industry in northeast Pennsylvania, "The Anthracite Capital of the World" 1890-1930. Fan House No. 2 was important to the development of Marvine Colliery No. 2 east of the Lackawanna River during the time period 1918-1920, the Delaware and Hudson Coal Company's most modern coal mining and processing facility at that time. Fan House No. 2 housed the company's first electric-powered fans to provide air exchange to the workers in the underground tunnels.

Project Information: This documentation was undertaken in April 1990, in accordance with a resolution by the board of commissioners of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, as a mitigative measure prior to partial demolition of the Marvine Colliery to make way for construction of the Lackawanna County Recycling Center on the site.

Dorothy Allen Silva
Architectural Historian
1288 Layton Road
Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania 18411

LOCATION

The Marvine Colliery Fan House No. 2 is located at the far east portion of Marvine Colliery No. 2, fronting Boulevard Avenue, centrally situated between East Parker Street at the south and Interstate 380 to the north, currently part of the holdings of Mike's Scrapyard property.

HISTORY OF EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONS

Prior to the development of the east portion of the Marvine Colliery, from 1898 to 1920, all fan equipment was located west of the Lackawanna River. In 1875, the Marvine used only one 20-foot-diameter Guibal fan with blades 5 feet wide by 5 feet deep, driven at 61 revolutions per minute by an 80-horsepower steam-driven fan engine, to provide an exchange of air to the underground areas at a rate of 30,000 cubic feet per minute.

The 1901 Report of the Bureau of Mines indicates that a second fan of the same type was added by that year.

With the expansion of the operations on the Marvine Colliery's east site, including a second mining shaft and mine tunnels, a greater amount of ventilation became necessary, and Fan House No. 2 was built.

The exact date of this construction is not known; however, no structures on the east Marvine Colliery site appear in the 1898 atlas of the city of Scranton; whereas, the 1918 atlas indicates an east site fully developed except for a completed Breaker No. 2. The earliest date that Fan House No. 2 could have been constructed would, therefore, be 1898, and the latest possible construction date would be 1918.

Photographs taken in 1920 by a Hudson Coal Company photographer named Horgan (in the collection of the Anthracite Heritage Museum, Scranton, Pennsylvania) depict the interior of Fan House No. 2, and indicate electrical fan engines. Since the Marvine Colliery installed electric power circa 1918, it is not likely that Fan House No. 2 was constructed before that time.

The 1927-1928 Report of the Department of Mines lists the Marvine Colliery as operating six fans at that time, two of which were 20-inch electric fans, each of which were driven at a speed of 88 revolutions per minute. These electric fans appear in a 1920 Horgan photograph in which a General Electric fan motor c an be identified.